	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/061,896	CARTER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FREDA NELSON	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amedment filed 01/22/09 and the Telephonic Interview on 03/26/09*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-8,10-13,54-64 and 66-76*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the
           International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
       Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)
1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *03/26/09* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Response to Amendment

The amendment received on January 22, 2009 is acknowledged and entered.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 54-64, 66-67, 69, and 74-75 have been amended. Claims 9, 14-

53 and 65 have been canceled. Claim 76 has been added. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 54-64,

and 66-76 are currently pending.

Drawings

The drawings filed on February 1, 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. **It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.** (emphasis added).

In this case, the Abstract begins with "A method of generating a price is

disclosed".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The claim rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph have been withdrawn due

to Applicant's amendment.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Kent B. Chambers (Reg. No. 38,839) on March 26, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of using a computer system~~ for generating

prices of one or more configurations of features of a product, the method comprising:

<u>using a computer system configured to perform each of the following:</u>

receiving at least a modification of one or more of features of a first configuration

of the product;

generating a first delta price for a second configuration of the product after

receiving the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration, wherein

the second configuration is the first configuration as modified by the received

modification, the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration

results in a price change between the first and second configurations of the product,

and the first delta price comprises the price change;

generating a price of the second configuration using the first delta price and the

price of the first configuration; and

providing the first delta price and the price of the second configuration of the

product to a computer system of a user to indicate to the user a pricing impact

associated with the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration of

the product.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the price of the first

configuration prior to the modification of one or more features of the first configuration

represents a base price of the first configuration, the method further comprising: using

the computer system to perform:

generating a final price of the second configuration using the base price and the

first delta price.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

using the computer system to perform:

receiving a selection of an additional feature, wherein:

the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration comprises

adding an additional feature to the first configuration;

the final price is associated with the product; and

a second delta price is generated in response to the selection of the additional

feature for the product.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

using the computer system to perform:

receiving a selection removing a feature from the first configuration, wherein:

the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration comprises

removing the feature from the first configuration;

the final price is associated with the product; and

the final price is generated in response to the selection removing the feature from

the product first configuration.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein:

the computer system of the user is a client computer system;

the first delta price is generated by a server computer system, the first delta price

is generated in response to the modification of one or more of features of the first

configuration of the product at the client computer system, and

the client computer system is communicatively coupled to the server computer

system.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

using the computer system to perform:

providing the final price to the client computer system for display by the client

computer system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein:

the base price is generated in response to a selection of the first ~~first~~

configuration of the product, and

the first delta price is generated in response to at least one member of a group

consisting of: addition of one or more features to the first configuration, removal of one

or more features of the first configuration, and substitution of one or more features of

the first configuration with one or more additional features of the first configuration.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using the computer system to perform:

receiving at least a modification of one or more features of the second

configuration of the product;

generating a second delta price for a third configuration of the product after

receiving the modification by changing a number of the one or more features in the

second configuration, wherein the third configuration is the second configuration as

modified by the received modification of the one or more features of the second

configuration, the modification of the one or more features of the second configuration

results in a price change between the second configuration and the third configuration

of the product, and the second delta price comprises the price change between the

second and third configurations of the product;

generating a price of the third configuration using second delta price and the

price of the second configuration; and

providing the price of the third configuration and the second delta price to the

computer system of the user to indicate to the user a pricing impact associated with the

modification of the one or more features of the second configuration of the product.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

using the computer system to perform:

generating a final price of the third configuration using a base price of the first

configuration and the second delta price; and

providing the final price to the client computer system for display by the client

computer system to allow comparison between the final price and the modified price of

the second configuration.

58. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer storage readable medium

comprising code for generating prices of multiple configurations of features of a product,

wherein the code is executable by a processor of a computer system, wherein when

executed by the processor the code causes the computer system to:

receive at least a first and second configurations modification of one or more of

features of a first configuration of the product;

generate a first delta price for a second configuration of the product following

after receiving the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration,

wherein the second configuration is the first configuration as modified by the received

modification, the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration

results in a price change between the first and second configurations of the product,

and the first delta price comprises the price change;

generate a price of the second configuration using the first delta price and the

price of the first configuration; and

provide the first delta price and the price of the second configuration of the

product to a computer system of a user to indicate to the user a pricing impact

associated with the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration of

the product.

59. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 58 wherein the price of the first configuration prior to the modification of one or

more features of the first configuration represents a base price of the first configuration

and wherein the code further causes the computer system to:

generate a final price of the second configuration using the base price and the

first delta price.

60. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 59, wherein to generate the final price of the second configuration comprises

adjusting the base price by the delta price.

61. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 59 wherein the code further causes the computer system to:

receive a selection of an additional feature, wherein:

the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration comprises

adding an additional feature to the first configuration;

the final price is associated with the product; and

a second delta price is generated in response to the selection of the additional

feature for the product.

62. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 59 wherein the code further causes the computer system to:

receive a selection removing a feature from the first configuration, wherein:

the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration comprises

removing the feature from the first configuration;

the final price is associated with the product; and

the final price is generated in response to the selection removing the feature from

the product first configuration.

63. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 59 wherein the code further causes the computer system to:

provide the final price to the computer system of the user for display by the

computer system of the user.

64. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of

claim 59, wherein:

the base price is generated in response to a selection of the first ~~first~~

configuration of the product, and

the first delta price is generated in response to at least one member of a group

consisting of: addition of one or more features to the first configuration, removal of one

or more features of the first configuration, and substitution of one or more features of

the first configuration with one or more additional features of the first configuration.

66. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of

claim 64, wherein: the product is a service.

67. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of

claim 58 further comprising code to:

receive at least a modification of one or more features of the second

configuration of the product;

generate a second delta price for a third configuration of the product after

receiving the modification by changing a number of the one or more features in the

second configuration, wherein the third configuration is the second configuration as

modified by the received modification of the one or more features of the second

configuration, the modification of the one or more features of the second configuration

results in a price change between the second configuration and the third configuration

of the product, and the second delta price comprises the price change between the

second and third configurations of the product;

generate a price of the third configuration using second delta price and

the price of the second configuration; and

provide the price of the third configuration and the second delta price to

the computer system of the user to indicate to the user a pricing impact associated

with the modification of the one or more features of the second configuration of the

product.

68. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 67, wherein the first delta price is generated in response to a first selection of a

first feature; and

the second delta price is generated in response to a second selection of a

second feature.

69. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer storage readable medium of

claim 59 the tangible computer storage readable medium further comprising code to:

generate a final price of the third configuration using a base price of the first

configuration and the second delta price; and

provide the final price of the third configuration to the client computer system for display by the client computer.

70. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of claim 58 wherein the modification of the first configuration comprises adding an additional feature to the configuration.

71. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of claim 58 wherein modification of the first configuration further comprises adding multiple features to the configuration.

72. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of claim 58 wherein modification of the first configuration further comprises adding multiple features to the configuration and removing at least one of the features of the configuration.

73. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of claim 72 wherein the modification of the first configuration comprises removing one of the features of the configuration.

74. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer <u>storage</u> ~~readable~~ medium of claim 72 wherein a unique feature is a feature not common to both the first and second

configurations of the product, each unique feature has an individual price, and the price

change does not equal an aggregate of each individual price for each unique feature.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using a computer system to perform:

receiving modifications of one or more features of the second configuration,

wherein the modifications of the one or more features of the first configuration and the

modification of the one or more features of the second configuration are sent at one

time by a user; and

providing a comparison between a price of the first configuration and the price of

the second configuration of the product.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 54-64, and 66-76 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1.   As per independent claims 1, 58, and 75, the best prior art, Henson (US Patent

Number 6,167,383), while disclosing a method and apparatus for providing customer

configured machines at an internet site, in view of Henson (US Patent Number

7,035,816), while disclosing a method and apparatus for computer system online lead

time advisor, and further in view of Hara et al. (US PG Pub. 2003/0088431), while

disclosing an automatic price correcting system, does not disclose or fairly teach:

generating a first delta price for a second configuration of the product after receiving the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration, wherein the second configuration is the first configuration as modified by the received modification, the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration results in a price change between the first and second configurations of the product, and the first delta price comprises the price change;

generating a price of the second configuration using the first delta price and the price of the first configuration; and

providing the first delta price and the price of the second configuration of the product to a computer system of a user to indicate to the user a pricing impact associated with the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration of the product

2.   The best NPL prior art, "Adoption of Internet-Based Product Customization and Pricing Strategies" and "Trilogy Takes Suites Route" does not disclose or fairly teach:

generating a first delta price for a second configuration of the product after receiving the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration, wherein the second configuration is the first configuration as modified by the received modification, the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration results in a price change between the first and second configurations of the product, and the first delta price comprises the price change;

generating a price of the second configuration using the first delta price and the

price of the first configuration; and

providing the first delta price and the price of the second configuration of the

product to a computer system of a user to indicate to the user a pricing impact

associated with the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration of

the product

3.   The best foreign art, Lilley (WO 075729 A2), while disclosing an automobile

feature option package comparison method uses server computer that selects

competitor products for dynamic comparison, fails to disclose:

generating a first delta price for a second configuration of the product after

receiving the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration, wherein

the second configuration is the first configuration as modified by the received

modification, the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration

results in a price change between the first and second configurations of the product,

and the first delta price comprises the price change;

generating a price of the second configuration using the first delta price and the

price of the first configuration; and

providing the first delta price and the price of the second configuration of the

product to a computer system of a user to indicate to the user a pricing impact

associated with the modification of the one or more features of the first configuration of

the product

4.   The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are

dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Freda A. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-

7076. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 10:00 am –6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

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/F. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3628

/John W Hayes/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628